**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1 to 9 without prejudice and add the following claims 10 to 21:

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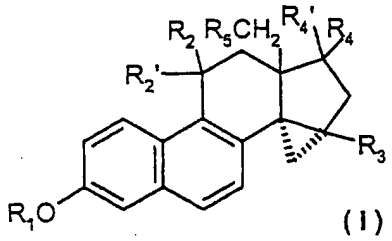
10. An equilenin derivative of formula I:




(I)

wherein

$R_1$ denotes a hydrogen atom, a $C_1$-$C_5$-alkyl group, a $C_1$-$C_5$-acyl group or a benzoyl group,

$R_2$ denotes a hydrogen atom and $R'_2$ denotes a fluorine atom, a hydroxyl group or a $C_1$-$C_5$-acyloxy group or $R_2$ and $R'_2$ together denote an oxo group,

$R_3$ denotes a hydrogen atom or a methyl group,

$R_4$ denotes a hydrogen atom and $R'_4$ denotes a hydroxyl group or a $C_1$-$C_{11}$-acyloxy group or $R_4$ and $R'_4$ together denote an oxo group, a

contd. B7

methylene group, a halomethylene group or a dihalomethylene group and

$R_5$ denotes a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

11. The equilenin derivative as defined in claim 10, wherein said $R_5$ is said hydrogen.

12. An equilenin derivative selected from the group consisting of 14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3, 11β,17β-triol, 11β,17β-dihydroxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3-yl benzoate, 11β,17β-dihydroxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3-yl propionate, 3,11β-dihydroxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-17β-yl decanoate, 3,11β-dihydroxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-17-one, 3-methoxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-11α,17β-diyl diacetate,

contd. B7

15β-methyl-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3,11β,17β-triol,

11β-fluoro-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3,17β-diol,

3,17β-dihydroxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-11-one,

3-methoxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-11α,17α-diyl diacetate,

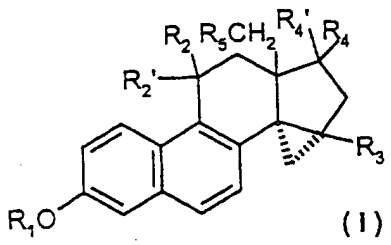
3-methoxy-14α,15α-methylen-11-oxoestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-17α-yl acetate,

11β-hydroxy-17,17-difluoromethylene-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3-yl benzoate and

14α,15α-methylene-17,17-bis-methyleneestra-1,3,5(10),6,8-pentaene-3,11α-diol.

13. A method of making an equilenin derivative of formula I:

contd.
B7




(I)

wherein

$R_1$ denotes a hydrogen atom, a $C_1$-$C_5$-alkyl group, a $C_1$-$C_5$-acyl group or a benzoyl group,

$R_2$ denotes a hydrogen atom and $R'_2$ denotes a fluorine atom, a hydroxyl group or a $C_1$-$C_5$-acyloxy group or $R_2$ and $R'_2$ together denote an oxo group,

$R_3$ denotes a hydrogen atom or a methyl group,

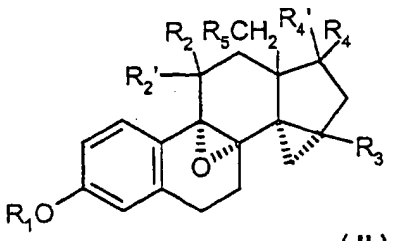
$R_4$ denotes a hydrogen atom and $R'_4$ denotes a hydroxyl group or a $C_1$-$C_{11}$-acyloxy group or $R_4$ and $R'_4$ together denote an oxo group, a methylene group, a halomethylene group or a dihalomethylene group and

$R_5$ denotes a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;

said method comprising the steps of:

a) reacting diphosphorus tetraiodide in the presence of pyridine with a compound to formula II:

contd.
B7




(II)

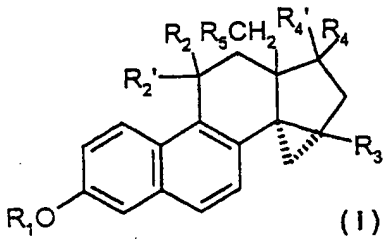
to form an intermediate product, and

b) converting the intermediate product to said equilenin derivative of said formula I.

14. A pharmaceutical composition comprising

at least one member selected from the group consisting of pharmaceutically compatible agents and carriers; and

at least one equilenin derivative of formula I:




(I)

contd B7

wherein

$R_1$ denotes a hydrogen atom, a $C_1$-$C_5$-alkyl group, a $C_1$-$C_5$-acyl group or a benzoyl group,

$R_2$ denotes a hydrogen atom and $R'_2$ denotes a fluorine atom, a hydroxyl group or a $C_1$-$C_5$-acyloxy group or $R_2$ and $R'_2$ together denote an oxo group,

$R_3$ denotes a hydrogen atom or a methyl group,

$R_4$ denotes a hydrogen atom and $R'_4$ denotes a hydroxyl group or a $C_1$-$C_{11}$-acyloxy group or $R_4$ and $R'_4$ together denote an oxo group, a methylene group, a halomethylene group or a dihalomethylene group and

$R_5$ denotes a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

15. A pharmaceutical composition comprising

at least one member selected from the group consisting of pharmaceutically compatible agents and carriers; and

at least one equilenin derivative selected from the group consisting of:

contd. B7

14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3, 11β,17β-triol,

11β,17β-dihydroxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3-yl benzoate,

11β,17β-dihydroxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3-yl propionate,

3,11β-dihydroxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-17β-yl decanoate,

3,11β-dihydroxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-17-one,

3-methoxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-11α,17β-diyl diacetate,

15β-methyl-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3,11β,17β-triol,

11β-fluoro-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3,17β-diol,

3,17β-dihydroxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-11-one,

3-methoxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-11α,17α-diyl diacetate,

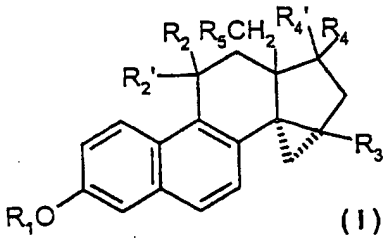
contd. B7

3-methoxy-14α,15α-methylen-11-oxoestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-17α-yl acetate,

11β-hydroxy-17,17-difluoromethylene-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3-yl benzoate and

14α,15α-methylene-17,17-bis-methyleneestra-1,3,5(10),6,8-pentaene-3,11α-diol.

16. A method of geroprophylaxis in men and women, said method comprising administering to a person an effective amount for said geroprophylaxis of at least one equilenin derivative of formula I:




(I)

wherein

$R_1$ denotes a hydrogen atom, a $C_1$-$C_5$-alkyl group, a $C_1$-$C_5$-acyl group or a benzoyl group,

$R_2$ denotes a hydrogen atom and $R'_2$ denotes a fluorine atom, a

contd. B7

hydroxyl group or a $C_1$-$C_5$-acyloxy group or $R_2$ and $R'_2$ together denote an oxo group,

$R_3$ denotes a hydrogen atom or a methyl group,

$R_4$ denotes a hydrogen atom and $R'_4$ denotes a hydroxyl group or a $C_1$-$C_{11}$-acyloxy group or $R_4$ and $R'_4$ together denote an oxo group, a methylene group, a halomethylene group or a dihalomethylene group and

$R_5$ denotes a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

17. A method of geroprophylaxis in men and women, said method comprising administering to a person an effective amount for said geroprophylaxis of at least one equilenin derivative selected from the group consisting of:

14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3, 11β,17β-triol,

11β,17β-dihydroxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3-yl benzoate,

11β,17β-dihydroxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3-yl propionate,

3,11β-dihydroxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-17β-yl decanoate,

contd. B7

3,11β-dihydroxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-17-one,

3-methoxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-11α,17β-diyl diacetate,

15β-methyl-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3,11β,17β-triol,

11β-fluoro-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3,17β-diol,

3,17β-dihydroxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-11-one,

3-methoxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-11α,17α-diyl diacetate,

3-methoxy-14α,15α-methylen-11-oxoestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-17α-yl acetate,

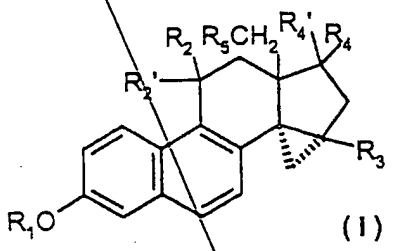
11β-hydroxy-17,17-difluoromethylene-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3-yl benzoate and

14α,15α-methylene-17,17-bis-methyleneestra-1,3,5(10),6,8-pentaene-3,11α-diol.

contd. B7

18. A method of therapeutic treatment of men and women having diseases or organs or tissues caused, at least in part, by oxygen radicals, said method comprising administering to a person an effective amount for said therapeutic treatment of at least one equilenin derivative of formula I:

Sub C1




(I)

wherein

$R_1$ denotes a hydrogen atom, a $C_1$-$C_5$-alkyl group, a $C_1$-$C_5$-acyl group or a benzoyl group,

$R_2$ denotes a hydrogen atom and $R'_2$ denotes a fluorine atom, a hydroxyl group or a $C_1$-$C_5$-acyloxy group or $R_2$ and $R'_2$ together denote an oxo group,

$R_3$ denotes a hydrogen atom or a methyl group,

$R_4$ denotes a hydrogen atom and $R'_4$ denotes a hydroxyl group or a $C_1$-$C_{11}$-acyloxy group or $R_4$ and $R'_4$ together denote an oxo group, a

contd. methylene group, a halomethylene group or a dihalomethylene group and

Sub C1

$R_5$ denotes a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

19. A method of therapeutic treatment of men and women having diseases or organs or tissues caused , at least in part, by oxygen radicals, said method comprising administering to a person an effective amount for said therapeutic treatment of at least one equilenin derivative selected from the group consisting of:

Sub C2

14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3, 11β,17β-triol,

11β,17β-dihydroxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3-yl benzoate,

11β,17β-dihydroxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3-yl propionate,

3,11β-dihydroxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-17β-yl decanoate,

3,11β-dihydroxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-17-one,

3-methoxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-11α,17β-diyl diacetate,

contd. B7

15β-methyl-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3,11β,17β-triol,

Sub C2

11β-fluoro-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3,17β-diol,

3,17β-dihydroxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-11-one,

3-methoxy-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-11α,17α-diyl diacetate,

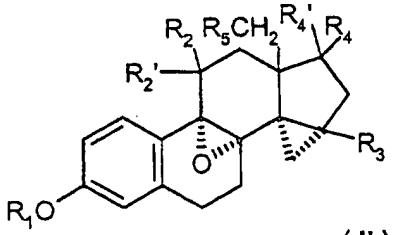
3-methoxy-14α,15α-methylen-11-oxoestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-17α-yl acetate,

11β-hydroxy-17,17-difluoromethylene-14α,15α-methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3-yl benzoate and

14α,15α-methylene-17,17-bis-methyleneestra-1,3,5(10),6,8-pentaene-3,11α-diol.

20. A cyclopropano steroid of formula II:

contd. B1



(II)

wherein

$R_1$ denotes a hydrogen atom, a $C_1$-$C_5$-alkyl group, a $C_1$-$C_5$-acyl group or a benzoyl group,

$R_2$ denotes a hydrogen atom and $R'_2$ denotes a fluorine atom, a hydroxyl group or a $C_1$-$C_5$-acyloxy group or $R_2$ and $R'_2$ together denote an oxo group,

$R_3$ denotes a hydrogen atom or a methyl group,

$R_4$ denotes a hydrogen atom and $R'_4$ denotes a hydroxyl group or a $C_1$-$C_{11}$-acyloxy group or $R_4$ and $R'_4$ together denote an oxo group, a methylene group, a halomethylene group or a dihalomethylene group and

$R_5$ denotes a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

21. A cyclopropano steroid selected from the group consisting of